# West and Mid-Cornwall Hard Boulder Problems List 2006

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## Introduction

IN WEST CORNWALL 'hard' bouldering might seem an apparently recent phenomenon; however, climbers such as Bob Lambourne, John Hooper and John Burgess have been pioneering and establishing hard problems in the area for decades. Although most of these older problems are perhaps not quite a high enough grade to make the list, many – including those at Carn Brea, Godrevy and elsewhere – would be first on any list of 'Area Sandbags' or 'Cornish Classics'

Better known for his routes than his bouldering, Mark Edwards, in addition to the one problem listed here, has bouldered extensively in Sennen's Black Zawn and below the Coastguard Face (Hayloft Area). Unfortunately any names or grades these problems may have are as yet undocumented. He also bouldered at Carn Brea (whilst studying at Cornwall College in the late nineteen eighties) and, as legend has it, produced a guide.

There has also been more activity at Gwynver recently but information about these newer problems is currently not available.

It is important to acknowledge that some of these listed problems may have been climbed before and that other people might be climbing hard problems in the area. But this list represents the best record so far of the current hard bouldering in west Cornwall.

An earlier version of this list first appeared on south-west climbing website www.javu.co.uk and is part of an attempt to sort-out what constitutes the cutting edge of bouldering in Devon and Cornwall. For the full list, including the Devon and North & East Cornwall problems, visit: http://www.javu.co.uk/Climbing/Articles/HardSWBoulders2006/index.shtml

## The List

| NAME | GRADE | CRAG | DESCRIPTION | FIRST ASCENT (Names & year) | REPEATS (If known) | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cave Traverse** | V8 (6c) | Helman Tor, Cornwall. | Painful crimp traverse on gently overhanging wall of cave. | John Fletcher, 2002. | None. | Many sharp small holds. |
| **Moves Me** | V8 (6c) | Helman Tor, Cornwall. | Climbs powerfully up a rounded nose on slopers. | Chris Hall, 2005. | None. | Feels desperate or impossible depending on conditions! |
| **Pond Wall** (with sit-start) | V7 (6b/c) | Carn Brea, Cornwall. | Soggy-bottom start into a knee-bar and rounded top-out. | Andy Whall, 2006. | Barnaby Carver. | The original stand-start problem V6 (6b), established by Chris Hall in 2001, has seen a number of repeats. |
| **Yep** (with sit-start from below and left) | V7 (6b/c) | Carn Brea, Cornwall. | A long reach across a roof to gain a small flake and hard rockover finish. | Andy Whall, 2004. | None. | *Yep* V6 (6b) from standing, first done by John Fletcher in 2001, is an innocuous looking but hard problem with a number of variations. |

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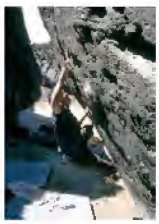
| **Blown Away** | V7 (6b) | Carn Brea, Cornwall. | A long low-traverse on sloping holds to a hand-jam finish. | John Fletcher, 2001. | Bob Lambourne, Andy Steinberg. | A hard extension to an old problem of Bob Lambourne's named *Swept Away*. |
| **Injected Persistence** | V9 (6c) | North Cliffs, Cornwall. | Blind slap moves into sloping finger-pockets. | Dave Biggs, 2005. | Barnaby Carver. | This problem is located on the coast near The Wave. On a par difficulty-wise with many of the area's V8s. |
| **Controvoscopy** | V10 (7a) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | A tricky problem up an overhanging, rounded nose with long stretches between poor holds. | James Pearson, 2006. | None. | Given a Font. grade of 7c by its first ascentionist. The V grade is an approximate conversion. |
| **Le Temp Passé Left** | V8 (6c) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Hard moves left from a common starting hold lead to a crimpy, reach finish. | Andy Whall, 2004. | John Fletcher. | A lower, harder start to a long-standing problem. Andy Whall has extended this problem one move further by avoiding use of a small ledge on the left to give a harder, and as yet unrepeated, variation. |
| **Le Temp Passé** (a.k.a. **L.T.P.**)  | V7 (6b/c) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Powerful crimp moves on an overhanging wall. | Andy Whall, 2002. | John Fletcher, John Burgess, Chris Hall, Miles Gibson, Barnaby Carver, Dave Henderson, Bob Lambourne, Dave Biggs. | Listed as V6 (6b) on 'Gone West'. |
| **Providence** | V10/11 (7a) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Powerful slap moves up an overhanging arête to a hard dynamic finish. | Dave Biggs, 2006. | James Pearson. | The original provisional grade is the one listed. The repeat ascentionist suggested a grade of Font. 7c (V9/10). |
| **Beachball** | V7 (6c) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | An eliminate sit-start problem based on an arête. | Andy Whall, 2001. | None. | Can often become buried under high sand/pebbles. |
| **Big Red** | V7 (6b) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Climbs through a roof on finger pockets before swinging to a jug and making a long finishing move. | Possibly Barnaby Carver, 2006. | None. | A recently completed project that has seen a number of attempts by both Chris Hall and Barnaby Carver. However, may have been climbed before in part (if not entirely) by Bob Lambourne and John Burgess. |
| **Piss Pot** | V7 (6b/c) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Difficult move on crimps to a feet-off campus finish. | Possibly Andrew Pedley, 2000. | Andy Whall, Chris Hall, John Burgess, Barnaby Carver. | An estimated first ascent date. Named much later. |
| **Ur Hot** | V8 (6c) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Very hard moves through a roof to a tricky top-out. | Chris Hall, 2005. | Barnaby Carver, Dave Biggs, Tom Maylam. | A new low start to an older jump-start problem possibly called 'Ineden' by some. |
| **Crab Crawl** | V7 (6b) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Lip traverse on slopers. | John Fletcher, 2001. | Chris Hall. | 'Johnny Fletch' put it up so it's probably flippin' 'ard! |
| **Pockets Into Trigonometry** | V7 (6b) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Thin moves into a big dyno. | John Fletcher, 2001. | Andy Whall. | A lower start to an existing problem. Andy Whall may have done it first. |
| **Perfect Evening Light** | V7 (6b) | Godrevy, Cornwall. | Lovely hard moves along a rounded handrail. | James Strongman, 2002. | John Fletcher, Chris Hall, Andy Whall, Dave Biggs, Barnaby Carver, Tom Maylam. | Thought to be V6 (6b) by some especially if you know the trick! |
| **Snorkel** | V? (6b/c) | Man's Head, Cornwall. | A hit-or-miss dynamic problem. | Andy Whall, 2003. | Barnaby Carver. | Varying sand levels can drastically reduce this problem's difficulty making it hard to grade accurately. |

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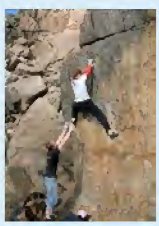
| **The Minitower Traverse** (a.k.a. **Three Egyptians**) | V7 (6b) | Man's Head, Cornwall. | A 14-metre long power-stamina traverse on crimps and finger pockets. | Barnaby Carver, 2002. | None. | A three star problem if you like that sort of thing! |
| **Barrel of Laughs** | V7/8 (6c) | Clodgy Point, Cornwall. | A designated sit-start move under a boulder leads powerfully to an easier finish. | Andy Whall, 2006. | Chris Hall, Barnaby Carver. | Difficult to grade, and the dynamic crux-move is very hard to get wired. |
| **Bloodlust Original** | V8 (6c) | Clodgy Point, Cornwall. | A logical right-hand variation on the arête of *Bloodlust* V6 (6b). | Andy Whall, 2004. | Barnaby Carver. | Long reaches on thin crimps. |
| **Salad Fingers** | V8 (6c) | Clodgy Point, Cornwall. | Two classic problems, *Uluru* V5 (6b) and *Boomerang* V7 (6c), connected via a series of sloper-groping moves. | Andy Whall, 2006. | Barnaby Carver. | Warm conditions can make holding the slopers very hard. |
| **Boomerang** | V7 (6c) | Clodgy Point, Cornwall. | Crimps on an overhanging sit-start lead to a sloper-slapping top-out. | Andy Whall, 2001. | Barnaby Carver, John Burgess, John Fletcher, Chris Hall, Miles Gibson, Dave Henderson, Caedmon Mullin, John Woods, James Strongman, Dave Biggs, Sam Arkle, Tom Maylam... Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all! | Clodgy's most famous problem and star of bouldering film 'Gone West'! |
| **Work in Progress** | V8 (6c) | Clodgy Point, Cornwall. | A low traverse of the Boomerang wall below the level of the lip. | Barnaby Carver, 2004. | None. | A technical sequence of moves. |
| **Andy's Link-up** | V6/7 (6b) | Clodgy Point, Cornwall. | A V5 (6b) traverse linked into a V4 (6a/b) finish. | Barnaby Carver, 2004. | None. | The finish is hard when tired. |
| **Foreign Affairs** | V7 (6c) | Zennor Hill, Cornwall | Sit-start to slopers and slap over the top. | Chris Hall, 2005. | None. | Home to some sharp crystals. |
| **Agony Aunt** | V6/7 (6b) | Zennor Hill, Cornwall. | A low traverse along a thin horizontal seam. | Chris Hall, 2005. | None. | The name is appropriate! |
| **Dreckly** | V7 (6b) | Bosworlas Boulders, Cornwall. | A long link-up traversing left-to-right along a break into Andy Whall's problem *Peroxide Wall Traverse* V6 (6b). | Dave Henderson, 2005. | None. | One for Dartmoor aficionados! |
| **Nanjulian** | Font. 7b+ | Gwynver, Cornwall. | Steep pulls onto an overhanging boulder. | Sven Scholz, 2003. | Barnaby Carver. | Very bold. |
| **Last Try**  | Font. 7a+ | Gwynver, Cornwall. | Technical wall climbing. Slightly high. | Heike Arnold, 2003. | Michael Scholz, Barnaby Carver. | A fine problem that's harder for shorter climbers. |
| **Mr. Wonder 1** (with sit-start) | Font. 7b | Gwynver, Cornwall. | Roof climbing. | Sven Scholz, 2003. | Michael Scholz, Barnaby Carver. | Slightly gritty rock. |
| **Swan** | Font. 7a+ (7b+ with sit-start) | Gwynver, Cornwall. | Blunt edge. | Sven Scholz or Heike Arnold, 2003. | Andy Whall, Barnaby Carver. (Both standing start only.) | Bad landing. |
| **Pea** | Font. 7c | Gwynver, Cornwall. | Small holds lead over a low bulge. | Sven Scholz, 2003. | Dave Henderson, Andy Whall, Barnaby Carver. | Much easier for the tall. Repeat ascentionists agree that the original grade is generous! |

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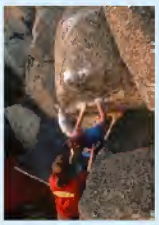
| **Evil Weasel**  | Font. 7c+ | Gwynver, Cornwall. | Intensely powerful if done with the original start. Eliminate. | Sven Scholz, 2003. | Michael Scholz. | Has been done with various starts by different people but the original designated start (necessary for shorter climbers) has only had one repeat. |
| **Double Beach Bed** | Font. 7c+ | Gwynver, Cornwall. | Climbs a big roof starting from the back. Essentially a hard boulder problem start to *The Alamo* (Very Severe 5c) a John Hooper route from 1999 which starts by stepping off a boulder to gain the lip. | Sven Scholz, 2003. | None. | Often damp and with a bad landing. |
| **Cream Tea** (with sit-start) | Font. 7b+ | Gwynver, Cornwall. | An eliminate arête problem. | Sven Scholz or Heike Arnold, 2003. | Barnaby Carver, Dave Biggs, Sam Arkle. | Possibly over-graded. |
| **Paresis** | Font. 7a+ | Gwynver, Cornwall. | A technical wall with a tricky crux move. | Sven Scholz, 2003. | Barnaby Carver. | A hold on this has broken, slightly changing the problem. |
| **Dental Fracture** | Font. 7a+ | Gwynver, Cornwall. | A lip-traverse on slopers. | Sven Scholz or Heike Arnold, 2003. | None. | A tad pumpy! |
| **White Wedding** | V8/9 (6c) | Sennen, Cornwall. | A long traverse from *Sinner's Route* to *Overmarked*. | Mark Edwards, 2000. | None. | Sequency crux on tiny holds. The V-grade is an approximate guess. |

# Photographs

Dave Henderson on **Le Temp Passé** (a.k.a. **L.T.P.**) V7, Godrevy.
Photo: © Barnaby Carver.

Dave Biggs working **Big Red** V7, Godrevy.
Photo: © Barnaby Carver.

Chris Hall on **Ur Hot** V8, at Godrevy.
Photo: © James Strongman.

Barnaby Carver squeezing the crux crimps of **The Minitower Traverse** (a.k.a. **Three Egyptians**) V7, Man's Head, St. Ives.
Photo: © Tobi Carver / B. Carver collection.

Andy Whall climbing the ever-popular **Boomerang** V7 at Clodgy Point, St. Ives.
Photo: © Barnaby Carver.

Heike Arnold, being spotted by Michael Scholz on **Last Try** 7a+, at Gwynver, near Sennen.
Photo: © Barnaby Carver.

Sven Scholz, with Heike Arnold spotting, on his problem **Evil Weasel** 7c+, at Gwynver, near Sennen.
Photo: © Christine Preis.

Sven Scholz climbs the excellent **Paresis** 7a+, Gwynver, near Sennen.
Photo: © Heike Arnold.

Thanks to Dave Henderson at www.javu.co.uk for allowing this list to be republished.
List compiled by Barnaby Carver with help from Dave Biggs, John Burgess, Egbert Dozekal, John Fletcher, Chris Hall, Dave Henderson, Bob Lambourne, James Strongman and Andy Whall.
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